

## DAVID DARDIN, REPRESENTATIVES OF.

DECEMBER 23, 1831.

Mr. BOULDIN, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

## REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the legal representatives of David Dardin, deceased, report:*

That the petitioners pray compensation for a valuable stud horse, which was impressed into the continental service during the revolutionary war; and, though half a century has elapsed, it also appears that the owners of this claim have been unceasing in their endeavours to obtain justice, and every idea of the possibility of the claim having been in any way satisfied is rebutted; and your committee are persuaded that the only difficulty which at first stood in the way of payment, was the impropriety of conduct of the officers in the service of the United States, in impressing a horse of so much value. The facts are as follows: The horse was regularly impressed into the service of the United States in 1781, appraised at the time at £750 specie, of the currency of Virginia, and a certificate given to David Dardin for that sum. Some time after the horse had been so impressed, he was returned, by order of General Greene, to his owner, much injured and deteriorated in value; that Dardin, nevertheless, received him, had him examined, and the injury was appraised or valued at £100. But James Gun, a captain of dragoons, under orders to collect the scattered horses belonging to the army, shortly thereafter retook the said horse into the service of the United States, where he remained until nearly the close of the war, and was then exchanged for two troopers, (of what value does not appear,) but he was subsequently sold by the individual who received him in exchange, for three hundred pounds sterling, or one thousand three hundred and thirty-three and one-third dollars. In the year 1782, David Dardin presented his claim to the county court of Mecklenburg, in the State of Virginia, which court made an order, allowing him £300; but this order was afterwards set aside on the motion of David Dardin. The order appears evidently to be the result of a sort of compromise, made by the court, between a strong objection to saddling the public with the consequences of so gross an abuse of the power of impressment, and an equally strong sense of the impropriety of making David Dardin sustain the whole loss. The evidence proves uncontestedly that the horse was of greater value than the sum allowed by the

court, and was, after being one or more years older, and considerably injured, sold for one-third more than that allowance. It is possible, and even probable, that the appraisers were over liberal, with a view to prevent the horse from being finally taken off, but your committee see not the least reason for valuing the horse at less than the sum for which he was sold, and adding to that sum one half the appraised injury, makes 1,500 dollars, the best estimate they can now make of the horse's actual value, at the time he was impressed. For that sum, with such interest as the holder of the certificate would have been entitled to, had he subscribed the same to the funded debt, they beg leave to report a bill in favor of the legal representatives of David Dardin, deceased.

## REPORT

That the petitioners pray compensation for a valuable stud horse, which was impressed into the continental service during the revolutionary war; and, though half a century has elapsed, it also appears that the heirs of the said horse have been endeavoring to obtain justice, and that every step of the possibility of the claim having been in any way retarded is repugnant; and your committee are persuaded that the only difficulty which at first stood in the way of payment was the impropriety of sending the officers in the service of the United States, in impressing a horse of so much value. The facts are as follows: The horse was regularly impressed into the service of the United States in 1781, assigned at the time to the service of the commissary of Virginia, and a certificate given to David Dardin for the sum of \$100. Some time after the horse had been so impressed, he was returned by order of General Dardin, to his owner, much injured and decayed in value; that Dardin nevertheless received him, and had him examined, and the injury was ascertained or stated at \$100. That James (son of a captain of Virginia) under orders to collect the continental horses belonging to the army, shortly thereafter retold the said horse into the service at the United States where he remained until nearly the close of the war, and was then exchanged for two horses of what value does not appear; but he was subsequently sold by the individual who received him in exchange, for three hundred pounds sterling, or one thousand three hundred and thirty three and one third dollars. In the year 1782, David Dardin presented his claim to the county court of Washington, in the State of Virginia, which court made an order allowing him \$500; but this order was afterwards made do the use of David Dardin. The order appears evidently to be the result of a sort of compromise, made by the court, between a strong objection to adding the profit with the consequence of so great an increase in the power of impressment, and an equally strong sense of the injustice of making David Dardin sustain the whole loss. The evidence proves incontestably that the horse was of greater value than the sum allowed by the